

**Iowa Department of Natural Resources
Environmental Protection Commission**

ITEM

4

DECISION

TOPIC

**Contract with Iowa State University for a Protocol to Assess Sediment
Related Biological Impairments**

The Department requests Commission approval of a contract in the amount of \$40,000 with Iowa State University for a protocol to assess sediment related biological impairments. The contract period is from January 15, 2006 – September 30, 2006.

This contract builds upon existing efforts by the Iowa Department of Natural Resources to determine sources of biological impairments in Iowa's streams. The contract covers the first phase of a two year project to build a protocol to determine sediment impacts. The second phase of the project will focus on testing the efficacy of the protocol, but is not included in this contract.

Sediment storage and transport are natural functions of stream ecosystems. In highly altered streams like Iowa's, excessive levels of deposited and suspended sediment have serious effects on stream aquatic communities. Despite widespread concern, water resource managers lack assessment procedures and criteria for effective management of sediment problems. In response to this deficiency, this project will establish a protocol for assessing sediment related biological impairments in wadeable streams.

Task 1: Review and summarize scientific literature pertaining to sediment-biological relationships and response thresholds.

Task 2: Select three impaired stream segments where sediment is considered an important stressor to the biological community.

Task 3: Compile and analyze stream and watershed data using the stressor identification process.

Task 4: prepare a project summary report including conclusions and recommendations

Task 5: Complete a version of the sediment-biological impairment translator protocol.

Funding for this agreement is available from EPA grant funds. This contractor was chosen for their specialized expertise in collecting and analyzing stream sediment and biological assessment data.

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January 29, 2006

Contract Budget

DESCRIPTION	PAYMENT AMOUNT
Salaries	
Principal Investigator	14,174
Graduate Student	13,125
Payroll Benefits	
Principal Investigator	3,770
Graduate Student	1,509
Travel	1,000
Supplies/Materials	6,422
Total Direct Costs	40,000
ISU Indirect Cost	0
Total Costs	40,000
Contributed Indirect Cost*	18,800
Total Project Cost	58,800
* Indirect costs are contributed by ISU per cooperative agreement	
1434-HQ-97-RU-01560	